

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing package resolution in a database system, the method comprising:

providing a SET CURRENT PACKAGE PATH statement within a server of the database system, wherein the SET CURRENT PACKAGE PATH statement identifies a selected list of a plurality of qualified package collections during runtime, wherein each identified package collection includes a plurality of packages and each package is usable during execution of one or more other database statements issued by the application, ~~the list of qualified package collections specifying a desired search precedence order of the selected package collections in which to search;~~

responsive to issuance of a database statement by the application, executing the database statement to search the qualified package collections in the search precedence order and locate at least one of the plurality of packages included in at least one of the identified package collections, the located at least one package for use with the database statement; and

caching the at least one package in a storage of the server, the at least one package being used during execution of the one or more other database statements issued by the application, and

in response to not finding a particular package in an associated one of the package collections during the search of the package collections, creating a not-found entry in a user database for the not-found package, such that subsequent searches for the not-found package find the not-found entry and skip a loading process for the associated package collection.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the list of package collections include a combination of literals, host variables, keywords, and null string.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each package includes a collection ID and a package ID.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the database system is a distributed database system.
6. (Currently Amended) A database server system comprising:
 - a catalog containing a plurality of package collections; and
 - a server coupled to the catalog, the server;
 - providing a SET CURRENT PACKAGE PATH statement, wherein the SET CURRENT PACKAGE PATH statement identifies a selected list of a plurality of qualified package collections during runtime from among the plurality of package collections

contained in the catalog, wherein each identified package collection includes a plurality of packages and each package is usable during execution of one or more other database statements issued by the application, ~~the list of qualified package collections specifying a desired search precedence order of the selected package collections in which to search;~~

responsive to issuance of a database statement by the application, executing the database statement to search the qualified package collections in the search precedence order and locate at least one of the plurality of packages included in at least one of the identified package collections, the located at least one package for use with the database statement; ~~[[and]]~~

caching the at least one package in a storage of the server, the at least one package being used during execution of the one or more other database statements issued by the application, and

in response to not finding a particular package in an associated one of the package collections during the search of the package collections, creating a not-found entry in a user database for the not-found package, such that subsequent searches for the not-found package find the not-found entry and skip a loading process for the associated package collection.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The server system of claim 6, wherein the list of package collections include a combination of literals, host variables, keywords and null string.

9. (Original) The server system of claim 6, wherein each package includes a collection ID and a package ID.

10. (Previously Presented) The server system of claim 6, wherein the database server system is a distributed database server system.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program for providing package resolution in a database system, the computer program comprising instructions for:

providing a SET CURRENT PACKAGE PATH statement within a server of the database system, wherein the SET CURRENT PACKAGE PATH statement identifies a selected list of a plurality of qualified package collections during runtime, wherein each identified package collection includes a plurality of packages and each package is usable during execution of one or more other database statements issued by the application, ~~the list of qualified package collections specifying a desired search precedence order of the selected package collections in which to search;~~

responsive to issuance of a database statement by the application, executing the database statement to search the qualified package collections in the search precedence order and locate at least one of the plurality of packages included in at least one of the identified package collections, the located at least one package for use with the database statement; [[and]]

caching the at least one package in a storage of the server, the at least one package being used during execution of the one or more other database statements issued by the application, and

in response to not finding a particular package in an associated one of the package collections during the search of the package collections, a not-found entry is created in a user database for the not-found package, such that subsequent searches for the not-found package find the not-found entry and skip a loading process for the associated package collection.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the list of package collections include a combination of literals, host variables, keywords and null string.

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein each package includes a collection ID and a package ID.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the database system is a distributed database system.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the database statement is a structured query language (SQL) statement.

17. (Previously Presented) The server system of claim 6, wherein the database statement is a structured query language (SQL) statement.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the database statement is a structured query language (SQL) statement.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).